

THE MARQUEE

A Publication
of the
Association of
Kansas
Theatre

December/January

817 W 6th St. • Topeka, Kansas 66603 • 800-343-2779

Volume 21, Number 1

Really alive in '95

The following groups have committed to AACT/Fest: Lawrence Community Theatre, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; Russell Community Theatre, Love Letters, Chanute Community Theatre, Holy Days, Topeka Civic Theatre and Manhattan Civic Theatre, Forever Plaid. Two other groups are strongly considering entering: Goodland Arts Center and Boot Hill Repertory Theatre. Even with the final two firmly committed, two performance openings remain open. And remember, the first eight entrants will receive a \$250 mini-grant to help with expenses.

The main focus of the '95 Festival is Celebrating Theatre, and AKT is insuring that aim be met. This year's adjudicators intend to single out every element of a production showing spark and promise. There will be a renewed concentration on "nurturing" production fundamentals. The AKT Board is assured that this year's adjudicators are supportive of community theatres and will do all they can in championing the artistic efforts and contributions of all concerned.

If your group has not yet entered, please, get your entries in! If you have any questions, call Celebration '95 chair, Susan Sutton, at 913-243-7861(home); or 913-243-1435(work)

Auditions at Convention!

After a hiatus of a number of years, professional auditions will return to the AKT Convention in Salina on Saturday, February 18, 1995. In a move to help boost convention attendance and increase regional awareness of the activities of the Association, board members voted unanimously last summer to reinstitute the auditions as a regular part of the annual convention activities.

Several prominent theatres will be in attendance, seeking both Equity and non-union talent to complete their seasons. Music Theatre of Wichita, Seem-to-Be-Players, Horse feathers & Applesauce and the Wichita Center for the Arts are named among those attending.

On-camera acting jobs will be available to participants in this event. Advertising executives, producers, and casting directors will be in evidence in Salina. According to AKT board member Heather Laird, this is a

new twist to the typical legitimate theatre audition format from which all participants stand to gain. "This means more job possibilities and more actors to choose from for auditioners," Laird said.

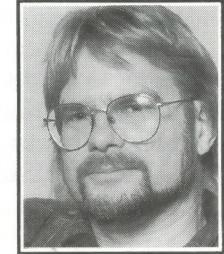
"This means more job possibilities and more actors to choose from for auditioners."

***—Heather Laird
Wright/Laird Casting***

College auditions will also be conducted within the professional format. High school seniors seeking scholarships and experience are urged to participate. The board committee on the auditions

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From
Ric



Greetings to all of you and a happy new year!

I am very excited about the upcoming convention in Salina. We have more participants in AACT/FEST than we've had for some time. We will be hosting a state-wide hearing on certification. We are having the first of many sets of regional auditions — reviving a very fine AKT tradition. We will also host a lunch for the Kansas Plains Presenters in order to explore how their group might function in conjunction with ours. We will also honor one of our own — Charles Kephart — for his years of service to Salina, to community theatre at large and to AKT.

AKT is growing, snowballing into the organization we hoped it might become during our long-range planning two summers ago. At the convention you will meet our new Executive Director, Tom Jones — an associate of BiSti, Bill Stinchcomb's management group that we hired last spring. Tom is energetic, charismatic, bright and intelligent. He will be a tremendous asset during this period of unprecedented growth of the organization.

Two reminders — 1) sign up immediately for convention — we want to have the largest attendance ever and 2) use that opportunity to pay your membership dues. We cannot grow at the level we wish to without your basic annual support.

I look forward to meeting with all of you to discuss the future of AKT. Plans are already underway for the 1996

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Future Changes in Theatre Teacher Certification

As you may know, the Kansas State Board of Education is in the process of changing the way K-12 teachers are certified/licensed. The new method of evaluation will be based on teacher outcomes (like QPA) or what teachers should know and be able to do.

Jeanne Klein (University of Kansas), Maureen Davis and Margaret McClatchey (Shawnee Mission North High School), Philip Kinen (Shawnee Mission East High School), and Sally Six Hersh (Lawrence)

Auditions

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recommended this approach after researching the idea of separate events. "Not only is this a valuable experience for the high school performers, but the integration will benefit the auditioners as well," Laird said. "College and University participants may be interested in the professional performers as guest artists. Professional theatre directors and media personnel may be seeking high school aged actors for their projects."

The cost to talent will be \$15. Additional information and registration details are in this issue of the MARQUEE. Interested parties may contact Heather Laird at 816-531-0331.

Ric

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Convention at Johnson County Community College. The theme is educational theatre and we will feature performances by junior high, high school, college, university and professional theatres. We may also fritter away a little time and money on a riverboat!

I also will have a draft of the revised articles of incorporation and by-laws, which we will have an opportunity to discuss and subsequently vote on.

Remember, AKT is a member driven organization — you will get out of it exactly what you put in. I look forward to seeing all of you in Salina this February!

have drafted outcomes for licensing new Kansas Theatre educators. The outcomes are based on the 1990 national guidelines for the Theatre Specialist by the American Alliance for Theatre & Education (AATE), the 1990 Kansas K-12 Drama/Theatre Curriculum, the 1994 National Theatre

separate certification for English, Theatre, Speech, and Journalism, the KSBE may not accept this recommendation. Nevertheless, AKT will continue to promote K-12 Theatre certification in coalition with Music, Dance, and Visual Art.

When other KSBE public hearings

Purpose of public hearings on standards

The purpose of this official Kansas State Board of Education public hearing is to gain critical feedback from AKT theatre educators and artists regarding new outcome statements for certifying future Theatre teachers. An AKT committee has written statements which reflect what Theatre teachers should know and be able to do in order to be licensed to teach Theatre in Kansas. Please read and study the initial draft of

Theatre outcomes and attend this important meeting to offer your perspective.

Panelists: Jeanne Klein, University of Kansas; Phil Kinen, Shawnee Mission East H.S.; Maureen Davis and Margaret McClatchey, Shawnee Mission North H.S.; Sally Six Hersh, Lawrence, and other AKT committee Members.

Standards, and INTASC outcomes used by KSBE. To obtain a copy, please contact: Jeanne Klein
Dept. of Theatre & Film,
317 Murphy
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045
FAX (913) 864-5251
(913)864-3511

We value input from as many AKT members as possible. Please read and study the latest draft, and let us know what you feel should be edited, added, cut, or changed. Make plans to attend an official KSBE public hearing at the AKT convention in Salina on Saturday, February 18th to offer further input and feedback.

As of mid-December, the KSBE Regulations Committee refuses to recognize Theatre as a separate endorsement field, and we could lose Theater certification altogether. They have ignored an AKT resolution signed by the membership last March, as well as numerous letters sent by theatre educators from across the state and nation. Though the Language Arts Dedesign Committee may recommend

come to or near your town next January, February, or March, please attend and let them know that you value Theatre certification for the benefit of future theatre students and Thespian troupes in Kansas. We must make our voices heard now—or risk losing Theatre certification altogether....

Salina Community Theater Position Announcement

Managing Producing Director— Responsible for the overall supervision of the artistic activities, regular operations, and personnel of the community theatre. Ability to direct productions a requirement; will oversee and participate in budgeting, marketing and fundraising. Will work closely with volunteers, guild and board. Requirements include bachelors degree with 1-2 years theatre management experience and 3-5 years theatre experience. Grant writing experience desirable. Should possess strong leadership qualities and outstanding communication skills. Compensation is competitive and commensurate with experience. Send cover letter and resume to Salina Community Theatre, Inc., P.O. Box 2305, Salina, KS 67402 by February 28, 1995. Start date May 1, 1995. EOE.

Center Singers Choir

What: Center Singers

When: Beginning January 24, 1995

Where: The Wichita Center for the Arts; 9112 E. Central, Wichita, KS 67206

Cost: \$40 (\$45 non-members) Returning Singers \$20
Contact Laura Bergquist, Performing Arts Education

Coordinator: Phone (316) 634-2787 (ARTS) Fax (316) 634-0593

Central, Wichita, KS 67206: \$40 (\$45 non-members) Returning Singers \$20: Laura Bergquist, Performing Arts Education

Coordinator: Phone (316) 634-2787 (ARTS) Fax: (316) 634-0593;

One of the most popular classes The Wichita Center for the Arts has offered moves into its fourth semester and will be preparing for its first public performance in April. The choir, which is open to anyone interested in singing, ages 16 and older, specializes in singing music from the vast Musical Theatre

repertoire. The 35 member group hoping to grow to at least 50 singers this spring is conducted by Laura Bergquist, a well-known Wichita musician and conductor who is the current Coordinator of Performing Arts Education at The Center and has worked with Music Theatre of Wichita, Friends University, Central Community Church, Wichita Community Theatre, Wichita Children's Theatre and Center Theatre, most recently conducting Children of Eden.

Center Singers will be performing a program entitled 100 Years of Broadway which will include guest artists and narration re-telling the history of famous Broadway musicals. Experienced and novice singers are encouraged to participate in this community choir. No audition is necessary and scholarships are available. For more information please call Laura Bergquist, Performing Arts Education Coordinator at (316) 634-ARTS (2787)

Wamego's Columbian draws rave reviews

The Columbian Theatre, Museum and Art Center has officially opened to rave reviews. It is an elegant, versatile facility and a point of pride for all of Northeast Kansas. We hope you'll join with us to celebrate this extraordinary achievement and help us meet a substantial challenge. On October 21st, it was our pleasure to announce a generous challenge gift from a group of Wamego-based businessmen and their families. The Columbian Challenge is a \$10,000 gift which must be matched by raising \$150,000 in new gifts to The Columbian Campaign. This outstanding gift has been organized by four Vanderbilt

store managers, and will help us reach our goal of \$2 million to complete The Columbian Campaign.

In the past few weeks we have hosted more than 5,000 visitors for Grand Opening events and tours. One of our most distinguished guests, Jane Alexander, Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, pronounced The Columbian to be "...a wonder, a remarkable gift to the region."

But we still have work to do. Earning The Columbian Challenge will provide for furnishing the Education Center, the Art Gallery and Gift Shop and enhance the

Theatre equipment. It will also provide for a building preservation fund so that we can care for this important investment.

During this holiday season of giving, please consider adding The Columbian to your list. Your gift will provide for the performing and visual arts, history and education in a truly beautiful landmark, for many generations.

Sincerely,
Clark Balderson, Chairman
Terry Thibodeau
The Columbian Campaign
Executive Director

Get in the act!

Don't forget to renew your membership ...

Tell your associates ...

The Association of Kansas Theatre is for everyone.

Contact the Central Office
800-343 2779
for membership form

I'm too old to be a roadie ...or a Russian experience

In response to last year's visit by some 100 Russian performers, a state committee was formed: The International Cultural Exchange of Kansas (ICE-K). The purpose of the organization was to develop a production and tour the Leningrad region of Russia for a two week period, Sept. 17-30. John Hunter and Tony Naylor were part of the six-man technical team on this tour. The presentation involved slides and unforgettable stories like: How to work with 260 volts and no ground, How to focus lights that haven't been adjusted in 15 years, How to handle a counterweight system when the rope lines are down to their last strands, and How to fix just about everything with a hammer and a crowbar. Join us on a ride through the Russian countryside in a worn out van with 50 gallons of gasoline sloshing around behind the back seat.

—John Hunter
Washburn University

March is Theatre in School Month

The American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE), and the Educational Theatre Association (ETA), once again join forces to co-sponsor Theatre in our Schools Month (TIOSM). Theatre Teachers and students throughout the United States are gearing up for the annual event which works to bring theatre into the lives and classrooms of young people.

Serving as honorary Chair of the 1995 event is Tony Randall, beloved actor and performer known to many as Felix Unger in The Odd Couple. Mr. Randall is one of the most recognized performers in our country having illustrated his talents in numerous roles on stage, in film, and on television.

Randall believes that the power and beauty of live theatre opens your horizons! He further supports that comment by saying, "I believe that theatre addresses people at the most profound level, not

merely as entertainment: they participate - they are part of the show. It is a powerful art form that, when produced on stage, elevates and inspires viewers to a greater understanding of life."

Mr. Randall established the National Actors Theatre in NYC which he committed to presenting the great plays of the world at affordable prices. "I look forward to many more years of making live classical theatre accessible and affordable to the youth of America - hoping to make theatre a real part of their lives." Nothing has confirmed his belief and justified the existence of National Actors Theatre more than the success of its Education Outreach Program. "The kids...are wonderfully attentive, and their responses are always open and honest. The students in our program have recognized the themes we explore on stage are timeless. Furthermore, they are able to relate their

own personal experiences to what they see on stage."

Join the celebration of March is Theatre in our Schools Month! Numerous State Governors will be giving proclamations in honor of the month and State Departments of Education in some states will be joining this event.

For further information about this project or for Theatre in our Schools Month promo materials, (posters, buttons, bookmarks, T-shirts, hats, etc.) or activities start up kit (includes photo, logos and idea sheets as well as promo material)

Contact: Dept. of Theatre, Box 3411
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
85287-3411, 602-965-6064 or Karen Kay
Husted, Chair, TIOSM, Theatre Arts Dept.,
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721,
602-621-8741

Alex & Shrink World scores big for Averill

Children's Theatre Playwright, Ric Averill, AKT president, has won the prestigious IUPUI (Indiana University/ at Indianapolis) Children's Theatre Playwrighting Symposium Competition. His play, Alex and the Shrink World, first produced by the Seem-To-Be Players in 1985, will be showcased in a staged reading in Indianapolis on April 1st, 1995.

The IUPUI Symposium is the most significant play development program for scripts for young audiences in the nation. The contest victory includes a \$1,000 prize and the possibility of further productions and publication.

Coupled with New Visions/New Voices at the Kennedy Center, playwright Averill has received two of the most significant awards in the field of children's theatre.

In addition to this most recent honor, Averill has been commissioned by the Olney Theater in Olney, Maryland to write a play, Reliable Junk, for junior high audiences. The play is based on the life of the madcap inventor, Harvey Sheetz, whose machines to communicate with ghosts and the cosmos at large were featured in Nat-

ional Geographic magazine in November.

This spring will be busy for the Seem-To-Be Players, who will travel to the International Showcase'95 in Philadelphia with Averill's play, The Bremen Town Musicians, performed for Lawrence school children last fall. The International Showcase will open opportunities for

national touring for the Kansas based company.

For more information, contact
Seem-To-Be players
2 Winona
Lawrence, KS 66046-4848
(913) 842-6622

New theatre classes for teens

Cut to the Classics: Beginning January 26, 1995: The Wichita Center for the Arts: 9112 E. Central, Wichita, KS 67206: \$40 (\$45 non-members): Laura Bergquist, Performing Arts Education Coordinator, Phone: (316) 634-ARTS (2787) Fax: (316) 634-0593.

For success in college application, regional theatre and a future career in theatre, a knowledge and experience in classical theatre is essential. A new class for students of the theatre in grades 9-12 is being offered at the Wichita Center for the Arts. Taught by the Shakes Alive Resident Acting Company, this class will meet Thursday afternoons from 4:30 - 6:00 for

eight weeks. Participation in the class is by audition only and is for the serious student. Students will explore Greek tragedies, Shakespeare, Moliere and other acting styles through scene study. This class will be challenging and fun! Class size is limited to 10.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, January 21 at 10:00 a.m. in Studio 4. Actors should prepare a classical monologue 3 to 5 minutes long. Scholarships are available for all Performing Arts classes.

For more information please contact Laura Bergquist, Performing Arts Education Coordinator at (316) 634-ARTS (2787)